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AFRICAN NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE TREATY

Report of the First Committee (Part XX)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Parfait-Serge ONANGA-ANYANGA (Gabon)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The First Committee considered agenda item 79 jointly with all the other items relating to disarmament and international security (for details, see A/51/566). For the documents before the Committee under item 79, see A/51/566, paragraph 3.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/51/L.23

2. At the 17th meeting of the Committee, on 7 November 1996, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)" (A/C.1/51/L.23).

3. At the 19th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Cameroon orally revised the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution by adding the words "and regional" after the word "global".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.23, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 5).

* The reports of the Committee on all the agenda items relating to disarmament and international security (items 60, 61 and 63-81) will be issued under the symbol A/51/566 and addenda.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

5. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/78 of 12 December 1995 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Noting and welcoming with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)that was held at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Noting with satisfaction the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[1] in which it was stated that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Bearing in mind resolution CM/Res.1660 (LXIV) on expediting the process of ratification of the Treaty of Pelindaba, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at is sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996,

1. Calls upon African States to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty as soon as possible so that the Treaty may enter into force without delay;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the international community and in particular to the nuclear-weapon States which have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon them to ratify the Protocols as soon as possible;

3. Calls upon the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible

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[1] S/PRST/1996/17.

and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. Also calls upon the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[2] which have not yet concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to that Treaty to do so, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9(b) and annex II of the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force;

5. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Secretary-General for the diligence with which he has rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in accordance with resolution 50/78;

6. Also expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to extend assistance, within existing resources, to the signatories in 1997 in order to achieve the aims of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

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[2] Resolution 2373 (XXII), annex.